

contact

FOR UNITED NON-RACIAL ACTION

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Blackspots Removal Scandal

TYPHOID OUTBREAK IN GOVERNMENT SLUM

From "Contact" Correspondent

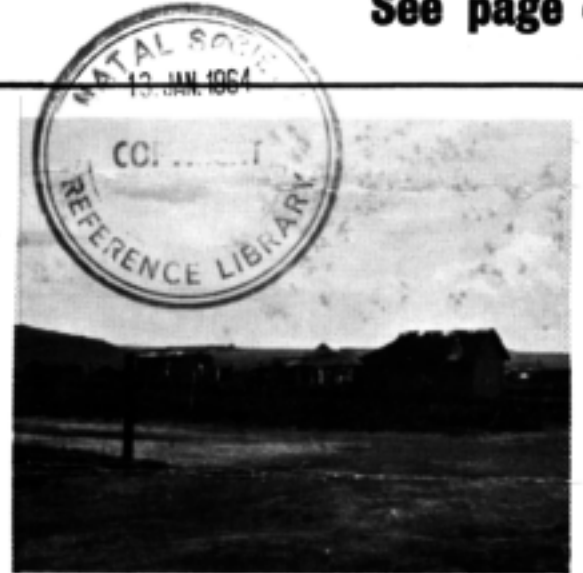
PIETERMARITZBURG: An outbreak of typhoid in Mondhlo, a rural African township 17 miles from Vryheid, Natal, has necessitated the mass immunization of the population.

The number of victims of the epidemic is not known but at least 28 cases of the disease have been located since July.

Mondhlo is held out by the Govern-

ment as one of the great "Bantu cities" of the future. It was to this windswept hilltop that African freeholders evicted from their homes at Besterspruit, Northern Natal, were sent in February last year.

Government propaganda painted the removal as a necessary slum-clearance scheme which would benefit the African people in every way. The unhealthy



Mondhlo - "Bantu city" of the future?

living conditions at Besterspruit were repeatedly stressed.

When the Besterspruit families were moved to Mondhlo the only water available was in a dam contaminated by seepage, and water had to be brought in by cart.

In the June edition of the Government Information Department publication *BaNtu*, it was claimed that Besterspruit was a slum and that "the unhygienic 'pit system' was used for sanitary purposes". Mondhlo today consists of the same mud houses and sanitation is the same "unhygienic pit system".

Many of the inhabitants were housed in tents until such time as they built their own homes. As *BaNtu* puts it: "Even the temporary tent dwellings are far superior to the hovels in which the Bantu had lived at Besterspruit. At least they provided a healthy camp life for a few weeks which had an uplifting influence on the morale of the Bantu."

Ten months later one third of Mondhlo's population of 4,500 is still housed in the green bell tents and the "healthy camp life" now includes such benefits as typhoid, diphtheria, kwashiorkor and pellagra.

Malnutrition is rife, especially among the children. In one recent clinic session at Mondhlo 19 out of the 115 kwashiorkor cases treated had clear signs of pellagra and one of the doctors reported that at least 40 children were ill enough to have warranted hospital treatment.

Eight cases of diphtheria have been treated in recent months and about 900 children have received a course of inoculations.

Disease is not the only thing that is wrong with Mondhlo. There is no work there; the nearest source of employment, Vryheid, is 17 miles away. The bus fares - 50c for a return trip - are beyond most workers' means. It is almost impossible to make a living off the half acre of land allotted to each family.

Milk could easily be bought at Besterspruit, but is unobtainable at Mondhlo. Wood was easily available at Besterspruit. At Mondhlo the only fuel is dried cow-dung. There is no butcher at Mondhlo and the shops there are so poorly stocked that it pays people to buy their provisions in Vryheid - in spite of the 50c bus fare.

Mondhlo is a rural slum. Old-established African freeholders were moved to a place where there was no expectation of work or of living off the land. No adequate preparation was made for the move.

The disease and suffering caused by the move outweigh any short or long term benefits. Whatever evils existed at Besterspruit have simply been transferred to where white South Africa cannot see them. And the apartheid map is prettier....

NORTHERN NATAL AFRICAN LANDOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Private Bag 525,
Ladysmith, Natal.

September, 1963.

Dear [redacted],

I write on behalf of the Northern Natal African Landowners' Association, representing African inhabitants of Blackspots in Northern Natal.

It has been estimated that there are between a quarter and half a million Africans living either in freehold or as tenants in Natal's 250 Blackspots. These people are all threatened with removal under the Government's apartheid plans.

On the 1st of September this year, 1,200 people representing most of the Blackspots in Northern Natal came together in prayer at Roosboom in the Ladysmith meeting. At this prayer meeting this appeal was adopted and it was decided to send it to as many people of influence as possible in the white community, namely:

"We, people of Natal, faced with the threat of losing our land and property, which we have held honourably and legally for more than half-a-century, and assembled here to pray to God to help us and to give us courage, and to ask Him that we should be left in peace on our lands. We make this appeal to our white fellow-Christians and fellow-citizens:

Pray for us that we may be given courage and be left in peace in our lands.

Speak for us who have no voice to speak for ourselves.

Intercede for us with the Government and the authorities.

Work for us so that this terrible plan of removal may be abandoned.

In the name of God and of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen."

We ask you to use every means at your disposal to have removed from us this terrible threat to dispossess us of all that we and our fathers have lived and worked for these past fifty years and more.

May we in God's name count on your sympathies and active support.

Yours faithfully,

Elliot Mngadi
Secretary.

**Malnutrition,
Disease
and No
Work
- Verwoerd
Says
"Advantage"
for Those
Removed**

Above is a copy of a letter that has been sent to all members of Parliament and to Town Councillors, Provincial Councillors and Church leaders in Natal.

The Landowners' Association decided early in September to "make a common appeal to the conscience of the white people in an earnest endeavour to have this terrible removal plan abandoned".

The appeal was made, says the Association, "because the authorities are executing these removals in the name of white South Africans, the aim being (according to the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development) to remove these septic evils from our communities."

Nine Black Spots in Northern Natal have already been removed - among them Khumalo'sville and Besterspruit.

The people of Khumalo'sville bought their land legally. On that land they built their homes, schools, churches and stores. The Government has removed them to Valandono which is a rural township. Here there are no schools, no shops, no water, and freehold tenure is unknown.

In his reply to the letter the Prime Minister, Dr. Verwoerd, said the new areas were "better situated from both an ethnic and developmental point of view" and that these removals "always in the past conferred advantage upon those removed".

contact

Freedom Calendar

1964

January

SUN	..	5	12	19	26
MON	..	6	13	20	27
TUES	..	7	14	21	28
WED	1	8	15	22	29
THUR	2	9	16	23	30
FRI	3	10	17	24	31
SAT	4	11	18	25	

February

SUN	..	2	9	16	23
MON	..	3	10	17	24
TUES	..	4	11	18	25
WED	..	5	12	19	26
THUR	..	6	13	20	27
FRI	..	7	14	21	28
SAT	1	8	15	22	29

Maroh

SUN	1	8	15	22	29
MON	2	9	16	23	30
TUES	3	10	17	24	31



THUR 5 12 19 26
 FRI 6 13 20 27
 SAT 7 14 21 28

April

SUN .. 5 12 19 26
 MON .. 6 13 20 27
 TUES .. 7 14 21 28
 WED 1 8 15 22 29
 THUR 2 9 16 23 30
 FRI 3 10 17 24
 SAT 4 11 18 25

May

SUN .. 3 10 17 24 31
 MON .. 4 11 18 25
 TUES .. 5 12 19 26
 WED .. 6 13 20 27
 THUR .. 7 14 21 28
 FRI 1 8 15 22 29
 SAT 2 9 16 23 30

June

SUN .. 7 14 21 28
 MON 1 8 15 22 29
 TUES 2 9 16 23 30
 WED 3 10 17 24
 THUR 4 11 18 25
 FRI 5 12 19 26
 SAT 6 13 20 27

July

SUN .. 7 14 21 28
 MON 1 8 15 22 29
 TUES 2 9 16 23 30
 WED 3 10 17 24 31
 THUR 4 11 18 25
 FRI 5 12 19 26
 SAT 6 13 20 27

August

SUN .. 2 9 16 23 30
 MON .. 3 10 17 24 31
 TUES .. 4 11 18 25
 WED .. 5 12 19 26
 THUR .. 6 13 20 27
 FRI .. 7 14 21 28
 SAT 1 8 15 22 29

September

SUN .. 6 13 20 27
 MON .. 7 14 21 28
 TUES 1 8 15 22 29
 WED 2 9 16 23 30
 THUR 3 10 17 24
 FRI 4 11 18 25
 SAT 5 12 19 26

October

SUN .. 4 11 18 25
 MON .. 5 12 19 26
 TUES .. 6 13 20 27
 WED .. 7 14 21 28
 THUR 1 8 15 22 29
 FRI 2 9 16 23 30
 SAT 3 10 17 24 31

November

SUN 1 8 15 22 29
 MON 2 9 16 23 30
 TUES 3 10 17 24
 WED 4 11 18 25
 THUR 5 12 19 26
 FRI 6 13 20 27
 SAT 7 14 21 28

December

SUN .. 6 13 20 27
 MON .. 7 14 21 28
 TUES 1 8 15 22 29
 WED 2 9 16 23 30
 THUR 3 10 17 24 31
 FRI 4 11 18 25
 SAT 5 12 19 26



THE LONG VIEW

— by Peter Brown

TRANSKEIAN OPPOSITION WILL FIGHT APARTHEID



AFTER THE EXCITEMENT of the elections and the first meeting of the new Assembly there is a lull in public political activity in the Transkei which will probably last until the Assembly meets again.

In 1964 ordinary Transkeians can look forward to having some of their affairs administered by a Chief Minister they didn't want supported by a "Cabinet" which does not represent them. In the end it was the Chiefs, and not the people who had the final say in who the Transkeian Minister was to be.

Were the Chiefs, or some of them, subjected to official pressure?

We may never know.

In Umtata itself there are widespread rumours of secret, oath-taking ceremonies at Abrahamskraal, in the dead of the Thursday night before the ministerial elections. But, like Mau-Mau, if there were participants, they aren't saying anything about it.

Of all the extraordinary statements to be made by a person on his election to office, one of the most extraordinary must be that of Chief Matanzima, when he claimed that his election as Chief

Minister showed that the people of the Transkei had "through the ballot box, expressed their uncompromising rejection of the policy of multi-racialism."

The Chief admitted that he had prepared his speech sometime in advance.

He must have prepared it for quite a different election result.

If there is one thing which is clear beyond doubt it is that, on November 20th, the ordinary people of the Transkei rejected apartheid out of hand. Only in Chief Matanzima's Emigrant Tembuland and in the Umzimkulu area was their substantial backing for him. In every other constituency there was strong support for Chief Poto's non-racial policy and in the majority of constituencies this support was overwhelming. In Eastern Pondoland, where observers saw only confusion in the voting, voters in fact came down overwhelmingly on the side of the pro-Poto men.

This clear cut expression of anti-apartheid opinion throughout most of the Transkei has meant that not only is Chief Matanzima unrepresentative of the people of the Transkei but several of his cabinet are quite unrepresentative of opinion in their own areas. One is a Chief from an area in which every single elected representative is pro-Poto. Another came a bad last out of 8 candidates in an area in which all seven of his successful fellow-candidates are pro-Poto.

No doubt when the original Transkei constitution was drafted the Government visualised an Assembly in which an almost unanimous bloc of pro-apartheid Chiefs would be backed up by an almost unanimous and pro-apartheid bloc of elected members.

Certainly they could never have anticipated apartheid's Transkeian bacon being saved at the last moment by the vote of the Chiefs.

Now, instead of a docile house, they will be confronted by an able and vociferous opposition - much abler than anything Matanzima can muster. This opposition will fight the application of apartheid to the Transkei every inch of the way.

And it will not be an opposition which Mr. de Wet Nel will be able to ban and banish out of existence.

Things will not be that easily resolved.

Effective and vocal public opposition in the Transkei has come to stay. Its opportunities may be circumscribed by the limitations of the present constitution and by the emergency proclamations, but there it is, with the whole world and the bulk of the people of the Republic behind it.

Good luck to it.

Affidavits Collected

IRREGULARITIES ALLEGED

CAPE TOWN: Energetic political activity replaced relaxed family reunions with good cheer flowing, as the keynote of the dying year, 1963, in the Transkei.

- In Tembuland meetings were held up to Christmas Eve of groups hastening to form the opposition party of anti-apartheid members of the Transkei Legislative Assembly, and their supporters. Paramount Chief Victor Poto, visiting from West Pondoland, took an active lead in a meeting held in Umtata. Offers of help to the embryo Party were coming in from many sources.
- In Chief Matanzima's Emigrant Tembuland strenuous efforts were taken to collect affidavits substantiating strong rumours of irregularities in the conduct of the election in that region. Among those who signed affidavits before commissioners of oaths, in some cases in police stations,

90-days: Deception and Dishonesty

"90-DAY DETAINEES: CHARGES Against South Africa Proved False" claims a headline in the latest issue of the South African Digest published weekly by the Department of Information.

The story below the headline deals with a Red Cross report on the condition of ONE man who is imprisoned on Robben Island and is NOT a 90-day detainee - i.e. Robert Sobukwe. The story makes no mention whatsoever of 90-day detainees and much less does it deal with the conditions under which they are held.

This report is typical of a recent spate of dishonest and apparently deliberate deception on the question of indefinite detention.

A banner headline in the Sunday Times of December 15th referring to a report of the South African Medical Association announced: "90-day ill-treatment charges disproved". The Sunday Times, for reasons best known to itself, omitted to point out that the report in question was published some years ago before the General Laws Amendment Act was passed, and before the era of "90-day" detention.

The Cape Times of 19th December quoted Dr. Tonkin, Secretary of the Medical Association, as saying that the report which had appeared in the Sunday Times was "entirely wrong". Dr. Tonkin went on to point out that the report had "nothing whatever to do with 90-day detainees" and that it had in fact arisen out of an investigation carried out "a few years ago" into conditions of HYGIENE in gaols.

At the time of writing, the Sunday Times, though it has had two opportunities to do so, has made no mention of the utterly deceptive report that it carried - much less has it tendered an apology. An apology is surely due.

Meanwhile the Minister of Justice, Mr. B.J. Vorster, was reported in the Argus of 2nd January as having said on his arrival in Rio de Janeiro that the 90-day charges were "all nonsense".

He was referring to a petition recently signed by a number of eminent medical authorities throughout South Africa protesting against the mental torture necessarily involved in indefinite detention.

Mr. Vorster insisted that "not a single incident of physical torture had been proved or demonstrated". But the petition he was referring to had made no mention at all of physical torture.

Mr. Vorster then went on to seize on the Sunday Times report which he said proved "that earlier charges were without substance".

It seems a pity that a newspaper like the Sunday Times should have allowed itself to become a party to the sort of deception we have come to expect of official pronouncements, and the South African Digest.

TROUBLES BREW IN THABA NCHU

By a Reporter

AN UGLY SITUATION is developing in Thaba Nchu in the Eastern Free State. The people are very resentful because of a removal scheme which the Government seems determined to push through.

Barolong tribesmen have lived for long years in the Seliba Reserve. Nicholas Mtwalo, an old man of at least seventy, was born there. His parents were born there. His grandfather came to Seliba many years ago from the Queens-town area.

Mr. Mtwalo knows nothing of the intricacies of land ownership. To him, Seliba is his land, and the land of the other people of the Barolong tribe.

On his plot he has three houses and some cattle. He had hoped to die there among the trees he planted which symbolize to him the story of his own life. Mr. Mtwalo has all the conservatism of old people everywhere and the peasant's attachment to the land.

In 1945 the title deed of this land was endorsed as Trust Land. That clerical action in the Bloemfontein deeds office was unknown to Mr. Mtwalo, but it has had a shattering impact on his life.

The Bantu Commissioner has authority over the Trust Land. He has decided, perhaps in the interests of the agricultural situation in the area, that the land on which Mr. Mtwalo and his neighbours live shall be Commonage and that they must move to a new piece of land he has set aside for them.

Old Mr. Mtwalo did not elect the Bantu Commissioner. The Bantu Commissioner is responsible to Pretoria not Mr. Mtwalo. Before taking his decision he did not consult the Barolong people to see whether some other arrangement would be possible.

The decision was made. It was the law.

Mr. Mtwalo received a notice telling him to move within thirty days. To bare veld. Perhaps he will get compensation. There is no provision for it in law but the Bantu Commissioner says it is probable that compensation will be paid. But only after he moves. To bare veld.

Mr. Mtwalo did not move. He was prosecuted and acquitted because the State failed to prove its ownership by producing the title deeds. He was prosecuted again. This time the title deeds were produced and he was convicted and sentenced to thirty days imprisonment, suspended until 8th January, 1964, on condition that he moves by then.

And so by edict of an official over whom he has no control, Mr. Mtwalo's way of life is disrupted in his old days.

This story is typical of many areas. Is it any wonder that troubles brew in Thaba Nchu?

were men who had been assaulted as alleged supporters of Mr. S.K. Ngudlwa and his pro-Poto ticket-of-four. Contact is informed that the S.A. Police are being asked to bring prosecutions in certain cases.

- In Umtata, the new cabinet ministers moved into their offices, amidst amused surprise at the lengths to which Chief Matanzima had been pushed to fill the five posts created. Two (Messrs. Matanzima and Mdledle) were from his own area, one from Umzimkulu (Mr. Selby Mvusi, who was believed to be an un-committed but pro-Poto man), Mr. Columbus Madikizela who came a bad last of the eight East Pondoland members, and, of all the fifty-odd Chiefs who supported Chief Matanzima in the election for Chief Minister, only one fit for the cabinet, namely the youthful, newly-installed Chief Jeremiah Moshesh.

SOUTH AFRICAN COMMITTEE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Bursaries valued at R300 p.a. renewable yearly (5 or 6 years) offered non-white matriculants wishing study externally for London B.A. or B.Sc.(Econ.) degree. Applications are invited from residents of Cape Peninsula area and should be addressed to: Secretary, "Vista", Buchan Road, Newlands, Cape as soon as possible.